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NOTE.

A CRITICAL NOTE TO COL. 4, L. 76, OF THE BEHISTAN INSCRIPTION.

King and Thompson's recent copy of the Behistan Inscription (The Sculptures and Inscription of Behistûn, British Museum, 1907) records in col. 4, l. 76: AVATAIY AURAMAZDĀ M KUNAUTUV. For the mutilated word several well known conjectures have been made; e. g., MAΘITAM (YAv. MASITA, *great*; cf. IF. 12, 132; KZ. 37, 558; Bartholomae, Altiran. Wb. 1157); VAZRAKAM (KZ. 35, 47; ZDMG. 43, 533); MAZĀNAM (Weissbach & Bang). Of these Foy's VAZRAKAM (better written VAZARKAM; cf. Nöldeke, Lit. Centralblatt, 1894; Bartholomae, Altiran. Wb. 1390; KZ. 37, 537) is the only supplement which fits the few straggling wedges of the lacuna. In case, however, the word-divider be effaced, as is quite likely, then we cannot suppose that V^a (or M^a under any circumstances) is the initial character, for traces of the cuneiform signs in the gap on the rock, as given by K and T, show two obliquely meeting wedges (like word-divider, thus written in Bh., and not with a single oblique wedge as formerly given), followed by an upper horizontal, then two small upper horizontals, then three parallel horizontals. These, I believe, may be portions of the signs for U, K (? if the second wedge be slightly lower), R, and I should suggest the reading: AVATAIY AURAMAZDĀ [UKARTA]M KUNAUTUV, *may Ahura Mazda make it well done* (i. e., successful) *for thee*. This is in full accord with the sense of the corresponding Elamite passage: AIAK KUTTA APPA HUTTANTI HUHPE AN URAMAŠTA AZZAŠNE, *all thy works may Ahura Mazda make successful*.

King and Thompson's transliteration KUNUTUV in the line is a blunder, as the cuneiform sign is N^a, not N^v, and the word, of course, should be read KUNAUTUV.

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